GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:323
ANSWERED ON:12.12.2002
ROUTES FOR TRAINEES
TARACHAND BHAGORA

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are contemplating to review the routes of training sorties of fighter planes over residential areas;

(b) if so, the time by which it is likely to be reviewed; and

(c) if not, the scheme formulated by the Air Force to check the incidents of air crashes in the residential areas?

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES)

(a) to (c) : A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (c) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 323 FOR 12.12.2002

Adequate instructions exist in Indian Air Force to avoid flying over residential areas. Government of India have also issued a notification in January, 1988 regulating construction activities in the vicinity of airfields. However, over the years, lot of buildings and other constructions have come up around the airfields. Flying over these areas is inescapable during take off, approach and landing phases. In the eventuality of abandoning a sick aircraft, emphasis is laid to point the aircraft in a safe direction away from residential and prohibited areas before ejecting.

A continuous and multi-faceted effort is always afoot in Indian Air Force to reduce all types of air crashes, including those occurring in residential areas. Measures to enhance the quality of training to improve the skill levels, ability to exercise sound judgment and situational awareness of pilots are being pursued. Extensive anti-bird measures are being taken to ensure safe flying environment. Constant interaction with Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd. and Original Equipment Manufacturers is also maintained to overcome any technical defects.